Syllabus

Description: This course will focus on the fundamental principles of bioethics analysis and the application of these principles to clinical case scenarios. Through this analysis, recommendations of the best course of treatment and action can be determined and justified in even the most difficult of clinical case scenarios. You will learn how to recognize a true ethical dilemma and how to resolve it. This will be an interactive course that will involve case discussions and debate as a mock bioethics committee. Clinical knowledge is not necessary to gain insight into the process and application of the ethical principles and theories in the resolution of these critical ethical dilemmas. This will be done through reading, reflection, discussion and debate.

Objectives: To develop a sound understanding of the nature and effectiveness of the prominent moral theories and principles which are commonly applied to the field of bioethics and used in resolving clinical case studies.

To develop a sound understanding of the nature of ethical decision-making

Readings:


Articles:


Other selected handouts
**Tentative Schedule**

**Session One:** Principle Based Ethics, Philosophical Theories and Elements of Ethical Analysis; The Ethical Dilemma  
Readings- Clinical Ethics—Introduction, Section 1, handouts  
Handout Readings- Pellegrino, Beauchamp, Case for Truthfulness, Malformed Infant, Dying in Academia articles, all other articles.

**Session Two:** History and Overview of Medical Ethics; Utilitarian Theory of Morals, Kantian Ethics and the Categorical Imperative  
Readings- Core Ethical Values, Elements of Ethical Analysis  
Bioethics and Clinical Case Studies- Chapter 1 and 2

**Session Three:** Making Ethical Decisions Guiding the Process; Ethics Decision Making Model and Case Studies  
Reading- Ethics Decision Making Model handout  
Readings- Clinical Ethics- Section 2

**Session Four:** Ethics Committees and Feminist Ethics; Classical Cases in Ethics  
Readings- Ethics for Committees (Wolf) article  
Readings- Bioethics and Clinical Case Studies- Chapter 5

**Session Five:** End of Life Issues and Case Studies  
Readings- Clinical Ethics- Section 3

**Session Six:** Case of Jodie and Mary- An Ethical Analysis; Midterm exam  
Reading- Handout, Bioethics and Clinical Case Studies- Chapter 4 and 8

**Session Seven:** Advance directives and ethical issues surrounding them  
Papers Due

**Session Eight:** Human experimentation, Belmont Report;  
Readings- Bioethics and Clinical Case Studies –Chapter 10

**Session Nine:** Disparity in Health Care, Rationing, Justice and Cost Containment  
Readings- Clinical Ethics- Section 4

**Session Ten:** Final Exam and paper presentations

**Grading**
Grades will be dependant on papers, test scores, attendance, class discussions and how well you demonstrate your understanding of the material. There will be two short tests and a paper. The paper is to be 5-10 pages, but more importantly well thought out and argued. Paper topics need to be discussed and approved.

**Attendance Policy**
Without a valid excuse, attendance is mandatory for all classes. The instructor will determine what constitutes a valid excuse (usually a medical excuse or emergency). However, more than three excused absences will put you in jeopardy of failing. If you are late to class three times without a valid reason, it will count as one absence. You need to be in class because we will be covering more information than is in the readings.

Come prepared with 2 discussion questions that you would like to present to the class on an index card. Base these questions on the readings and general topic for the week. These are to be handed in at the beginning of each class. In addition, please cut out and submit any newspaper or media articles that you feel have some bases in health care ethics. If we have time, we will try to take one or two of these for discussion during each class.